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**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2144**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/693,673

Filed: October 19, 2000

Inventors:

Thomas E. Saulpaugh

Gregory L. Slaughter

Eric Pouyoul

Title: Message Gates Using a
Shared Transport in a
Distributed Computing
Environment

§ Examiner: Maniwang, Joseph R
§ Group/Art Unit: 2144
§ Atty. Dkt. No: 5181-64200

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Robert C. Kowert

Name of Registered Representative

Signature

July 13, 2004

Date

**RESPONSE TO FINAL ACTION OF
MAY 14, 2004**

RECEIVED

JUL 19 2004

Technology Center 2100

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Final Action of May 14, 2004, to further highlight why the application is in condition for allowance.

